GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:187
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2007
DIVERSION OF FOODGRAINS
Bhargav Shri Girdhari Lal;Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has not agreed with the findings of the Planning Commission regarding diversion of foodgrains from Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has conducted a separate study/survey to ascertain the level of diversion from PDS;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon alongwith the details of the mechanism for monitoring of PDS by this Government on a monthly basis;

(e) whether all the States have submitted Form `C` as required under PDS Control Order, 2001;

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to strengthen PDS on the basis of the information provided therein;

(g) if not, the names of States which have failed to do so; and

(h) the time by which they are likely to submit the said form?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g) & (h): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.187 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 12.03.2007 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c)&(d): Yes, Sir. An Evaluation Study on TPDS and AAY was undertaken by the ORG Centre for Social Research, New Delhi. As per the findings of the Study there was diversion of wheat and rice of 53.3% and 39% respectively at the all India level. The final report has been received in September, 2005 and forwarded to States/UTs for necessary action.

The issue of diversion has been discussed in five Regional Conferences with the State Governments during 2005-06. The issue was also discussed in the Food Ministers/Food Secretaries Conference held on 29-03-2006. The State Governments have however expressed reservations in these Conferences on the findings of the study. The participants States/UTs were requested to take necessary immediate steps to strengthen TPDS and to curb diversion/leakage. On the basis of the discussions, this Department has drawn a 9 points Action Plan and sent to all State Governments for taking necessary action thereon. The Action Plan contains the following points:

1. States should undertake a campaign for Review of BPL/AAY lists, to eliminate ghost ration cards.
2. Strict action should be taken against the guilty to ensure leakage free distribution of foodgrains. In this respect information asked for under clause 8 & 9 of PDS Control Order, may also be sent.
3. For sake of transparency involvement of elected PRI members in distribution of foodgrains be ensured. As far as possible, FPS licences be given to SHGs, gram panchayats, cooperatives, etc.
4. BPL/AAY lists should be displayed on all FPSs.
5. District-wise and FPS-wise allocation of foodgrains should be put up on websites and other prominent places, for public scrutiny.
6. Wherever possible, door step delivery of foodgrains should be ensured by States, instead of letting private transporters/wholesalers to transport goods.
7. Timely availability of foodgrains at FPS level and fixed dates of distribution to ration card holders should be ensured.
8. Training of members of FPS level Vigilance Committees should be ensured. Proposals for funding training can be sent to the GOI.

9. Computerisation of TPDS operations be undertaken.
(e): A statement is attached as per annexure-I

(f): The shortcomings brought out in the Form `C` are discussed/reviewed in subsequent meetings/conferences held with the Food Ministers/Food Secretaries and concerned States/UTs are requested to take all necessary steps to strengthen TPDS. A nine point action plan has been formulated to strengthen TPDS and to curb leakage/diversion. All States/UTs have requested to take necessary action as per this plan.

(g)&(h): The States and UTs who have not furnished any information till date as required in Form-C, has been indicated in the Statement of States/UTs enclosed as annexure-I. In this connection it may be mentioned that on 18.9.2006, a meeting of all State Food Secretaries was held in Delhi wherein all the States/UTs were requested to send the information in Form `C` afresh, in order to review the progress of PDS in the States/UTs. They have been reminded again.